

Q1. How can you tell if a bridge hand is 'balanced'?

Q2. Can a hand with 5 cards in one suit and 4 cards in a second suit be balanced?

Q3. What is the minimum number of HCP Responder should hold to bid Stayman after partner has opened 1NT?

Q4. In responding to partner's 1NT opening bid;

- What should responder bid with 11 or 12 HCP and a balanced hand?
- What should he bid holding 13 HCP and a balanced hand?

Q5. What is the Stayman Convention?

Q6. West opens 1NT. What is the likely bidding sequence with no bids made by the opponents

West	East
♠ A 7 4	♠ K Q 6 3
♥ Q J	♥ A 8 7 3
♦ A J 9 5	♦ T
♣ 6 5 2	♣ K J 5 2

Q7. What is Opener's response to the Stayman convention when;

- he has no 4-card major?
- he has 4 cards in both hearts and spade?

Q8. Responder bid Stayman after partner opened 1NT. Opener rebids 2♥. What does Responder rebid holding the following two hands?

a) ♠ A J T 4	b) ♠ K J 6 3
♥ Q J	♥ A Q 7 3
♦ A J 9 5	♦ T
♣ 6 5 2	♣ K J 5 2

Q9. How many HCPs do you need to open 1NT?

What is the other requirement?

Q10. Can you open 1NT holding a 5- card major?

A2. NO. All hands where Opener bids a second suit show at least 5 cards in the first bid suit and 4 cards in the second i.e. an unbalanced hand. (Remember the one exception - the 4441 hand which cannot show a 5-card suit so you 'lie' in a minor)

A4. To bid 1NT Opener must have 12-14 HCP  
 a) With 11 or 12 HCP's Responder bids 2NT (inviting) Opener to bid game if maximum - 14 HCP.  
 b) With 13 HCP Responder bids 3NT, Game  $13+12=25$ .

A6. East, Responder has 2 x 4 card majors & 11+ HCP - 2♣ Stayman.  
 Opener rebids 2♦ (denies a 4 card major).  
 Responder does the maths. Even if Opener minimum (12 HCP) + Responder's 13 HCP = 25 enough for game. Responder bids 3NT

A8. a) Responder has 13 HCPs so bids 3NT.  
 Opener's known minimum is 12 HCPs ( $12+13=25$ ) enough to bid game. Opener now knows responder must have a 4 card spade suit & can convert to 4♠  
 b) Responder bids 4♥ having found an 8 card fit in the major.

A10. Yes, provided it's a 'poor' 5 card. major i.e. missing two of the top 3 honours or, one that you would not like to rebid!

A1. A bridge hand is said to be balanced if it has:

No voids,  
 No singletons  
 Only ONE doubleton  
 There are only 3 possible shapes:  
 4333, 4432, 2335

A3. 11 HCP's

Note: With 10 HCP, responder should pass since  $14 + 10 = 24$  too few for game even if Opener is maximum at 14 HCP.

A5. 2♣ is the Stayman bid made by Responder only after partner opens 1NT and responder has 11+ HCPs and at least one 4 card major.  
 It asks Opener  
 'Have you a 4 card Major?'

A7. a) 2♦ This is the conventional bid which the 1NT opener bids to deny holding a 4-card major  
 b) with 4 cards in both majors, the 1NT opener must bid 2♥ first

A9. 12-14 HCP to open 1NT  
 Your hand must also be balanced